

Common abbreviations list

\bar{c} = with
Tx = treatment
Dx = diagnosis
Thx = therapy
Sx = surgery
Rx = pharmacy or prescription
d/t = due to
s/t = secondary to
r/t = related to
s/p = status post
r/o = rule out
c/o = complains of
 Δ = change
+/- = with or without
maybe or maybe
possible not

VSS = vital signs
stable
 \bar{a} = before
 \bar{p} = after
Abx = antibiotics
q = every (as in "q day")
 \bar{s} = without
S/S = signs & symptoms
 $\dot{1}$ = 1
 $\ddot{1}$ = 2
ac = before meals
pc = after meals
hs = hour of sleep
bedtime
WA = while awake
NOC = night shift
ad lib = as desired
EOS = end of shift ☺

ORGAN/
BODY PART

MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY

AIR

PNEUMO

CHEST

THORACIC, THORAX, THORACO-

EAR

AURICLE, OTO-

EYE

OCULAR, OCULO-, OPHTALMO-

KIDNEY

RENAL, NEPHRIC, NEPHRO-

LIVER

HEPATIC, HEPATO-

HEART

CARIUM, CARDIAC, CARDIO-

BLOOD

HEM-, HEMO-, HEMAT-

LUNGS

PULMONARY, PULMONIC

INTESTINES

CECUM, COLON, DUODENUM, ILEUM, JEJUNUM

MOUTH

ORAL, OS, STOMA, STOMAT-

SKIN

DERMA, INTEGUMENTUM

STOMACH

GASTRIC, GASTRO-

TESTICLE

ORCHIO-, ORCHI-, ORCHIDO-

UTERUS

HYSTERO-, -METRA

| <i>Interior Root</i> | <i>What It Means</i> |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Branch/i, branch/o | Bronchus |
| Branchiol/o | Bronchiole |
| Carcin/o | Cancer |
| Cardi/o | Heart |
| Cellul/o | Cell |
| Cerebell/o | Cerebellum |
| Cerebr/i, cerebr/o | Cerebrum |
| Chol/e | Bile |
| Cholecyst/o | Gallbladder |
| Choledoch/o | Common bile duct |
| Chondr/i, chondr/o | Cartilage |
| Chrom/o | Color |
| Col/o | Colon |
| Colp/o | Vagina |
| Cost/o | Rib |
| Cry/o | Cold |
| Crypt/o | Hidden |
| Cutane/o | Skin |
| Cyan/o | Blue |
| Cysti, cyst/o | Bladder or cyst |
| Cyt/o | Cell |
| Dip/o | Double, twice |
| Duoden/o | Duodenum |
| Encephal/o | Brain |
| Enter/o | Intestine |
| Episi/o | Vulva |
| Erythr/o | Red |
| Esophag/o | Esophagus |
| Fibr/o | Fibers |
| Galact/o | Milk |
| Gastr/o | Stomach |
| Glyc/o | Sugar |
| Gynec/o | Female |

(continued)

COMMON MEDICAL ABBREVIATIONS

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| mg, mgm | milligram | ql | as much as desired |
| Mg | magnesium | qod | every other day |
| MgSO₄ | magnesium sulfate | qs | a sufficient quantity |
| ml | milliliter | qt | quart |
| mm | millimeter | qw | once per week |
| MOM | milk of magnesia | R/O | rule out |
| MSO₄ | morphine sulfate | Rx | prescription only |
| Na | sodium | sat | saturated |
| NaCl | sodium chloride | SC, SQ | subcutaneously |
| NDA | New Drug Application | sig | label; let it be printed |
| neg | negative | sob | shortness of breath |
| NKA | no known allergies | sol | solution |
| No. | number | solv | dissolve |
| noct | in the night | sos | if necessary or required |
| NPO | nothing by mouth | ss | one half |
| NR | no refill | stat | immediately |
| NSAID | nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug | supp | suppository |
| od | right eye | susp | suspension |
| oint | ointment | syr | syrup |
| ol | left eye | t_{1/2} | half life |
| os | left eye | tab(s) | tablets |
| ou | each eye | tbsp | tablespoonful |
| oz | ounce | temp | temperature |
| P | pulse, pint | tid | three times per day |
| PB | phenobarbital | tiw | three times per week |
| pc | after meals | T_{max} | time to maximum concentration |
| per | by | top | topically |
| PI | Package Insert | TPN | total parenteral nutrition |
| PM | evening; after noon | tr, tinc | tincture |
| po | by mouth; orally | tsp | teaspoonful |
| PPI | Patient Package Insert | ud | as directed |
| prn | as needed; whenever necessary | UD | unit-dose package |
| pt | patient, pint | ung | ointment |
| pulv | powder | URI | upper respiratory infection |
| pwdr | powder | USP | United States Pharmacopoeia |
| q | every | UTI | urinary tract infection |
| q4h | every 4 hours | vag | vaginal |
| q6h | every 6 hours | VO | verbal order |
| qd | every day | vol | volume |
| qh, qhr | every hour | VS | vital signs |
| qid | four times per day | wa | while awake |
| qiw | four times per week | wt | weight |
| | | x | times |

COMMON MEDICAL ABBREVIATIONS

| | | | |
|------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|---|
| aa | of each | etc | and so on |
| ac | before meals | EtOH | alcohol |
| ad | right ear | exp | expired |
| ad lib | as desired | ext | extract, external |
| al | left ear | F | Fahrenheit |
| AM | morning; before noon | FBS | fasting blood sugar |
| amt | amount | Fe | iron |
| ANDA | Abbreviated New Drug Application | fl | fluid |
| ante | before | fl dr | fluidram |
| APAP | acetaminophen | fl oz | fluid ounce |
| aq | water; aqueous | ft | let there be made |
| as | left ear | FUO | fever of unknown origin |
| ASA | aspirin | g, gm | gram |
| au | both ears | gr | grain |
| AUC | area under the curve | gt | a drop |
| bid | twice a day | gtt | drops |
| biw | twice weekly | H₂O | water |
| BMR | basal metabolism rate | HDL-C | high-density lipoprotein-cholesterol |
| bp | boiling point | HR | heart rate |
| BP | blood pressure | H, h, hr | hour |
| C | Centigrade | hs | at bedtime, hour of sleep |
| c | with | Hx | history |
| Ca | calcium | IM | intramuscular |
| cap(s) | capsule(s) | INDA | Investigational New Drug Application |
| cath | catheter | inh | inhalation |
| CBC | complete blood count | INH | isoniazid |
| cc | cubic centimeter | inj | injection |
| chol | cholesterol | IPPB | intermittent positive pressure breathing |
| Cl | chloride | IU | international units |
| cm | centimeter | IV | intravenous |
| C_{max} | maximum effective plasma concentration | kg | kilogram |
| C_{min} | minimum effective plasma concentration | KMnO₄ sol | potassium permanganate solution |
| c/o | complains of | L | liter, left, put left first |
| comp | compounded of | lb | pound |
| CV | cardiovascular | LDL-C | low-density lipoprotein-cholesterol |
| diag | diagnosis | liq | liquid |
| dil | dilute | MAOI | monoamine oxidase inhibitor |
| disch | discharge | mcg | microgram |
| disp | dispense | MDI | metered dose inhaler |
| dr | dram | mEq | milliequivalent |
| drp(s) | drop(s) | | |
| Dx | diagnosis | | |
| EENT | Eye, Ear, Nose & Throat | | |

Important general suffixes

| Suffix | Meaning | Ex. |
|-------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| -cyte | Cell | Leuko/cyte |
| -genesis X -lysis | Formation X Destruction | Lipo/genesis .. Prote/o/lysis |
| -megaly | Enlargement | Cardio/megaly |
| -graphy | The process | Electro/cardio/graphy ECG |
| -gram | The record (result) | Electro/encephalo/gram |
| -penia X -osis | Decreased X increased | Leuko/cyto/(penia-osis) |
| -otomy | To cut into | Trache/otomy |
| -ectomy | To cut out | Mast/ectomy |
| -pathy | Diseased | Neuro/pathy |

Medical Terminology for Vocabulary Quizzes

- a-** *no, not, without* (atom, agranulocyte)
- ab-** *away* (abducens, abduction)
- acetabulo-** *small cup* (acetabulum)
- acro-** *tip, extremity, peak* (acromion, acromegaly)
- ad-** *to, toward, near* (adsorption, adrenal)
- adeno-** *gland* (lymphadenitis, adenohypophysis)
- aero-** *air, oxygen* (aerobic, anaerobe, aerophagy)
- af-** *toward* (afferent)
- ag-** *together* (agglutination)
- al** *pertaining to* (parietal, pharyngeal, temporal)
- ala-** *wing* (ala nasi)
- albi-** *white* (albicans, linea alba, albino)
- algi-** *pain* (analgesic, myalgia)
- aliment-** *nourishment* (alimentary)
- allo-** *other, different* (allele, allograft)
- amphi-** *both, either* (amphiphilic, amphiarthrosis)
- an-** *without* (anaerobic, anemic)
- ana-1.** *up, build up* (anabolic, anaphylaxis). **2.** *apart* (anaphase, anatomy). **3.** *back* (anastomosis)
- andro-** *male* (androgen)
- angi-** *vessel* (angiogram, angioplasty, hemangioma)
- ante-** *before, in front* (antebrachium)
- antero-** *forward* (anterior, anterograde)
- anti-** *against* (antidiuretic, antibody, antagonist)
- apo-** *from, off, away, above* (apocrine, aponeurosis)
- arbor-** *tree* (arboreal, arborization)
- artic-** **1.** *joint* (articulation). **2.** *speech* (articulate)
- ary** *pertaining to* (axillary, coronary)
- ase** *enzyme* (polymerase, kinase, amylase)
- ast-, astro-** *star* (aster, astrocyte)
- ata, -ate 1.** *possessing* (hamate, corniculate). **2.** *plural of -a* (stomata, carcinomata)
- athero-** *fat* (atheroma, atherosclerosis)
- atrio-** *entryway* (atrium, atrioventricular)
- auri-** *ear* (auricle, binaural)
- auto-** *self* (autolysis, autoimmune)
- axi-** *axis, straight line* (axial, axoneme, axon)
- baro-** *pressure* (baroreceptor, hyperbaric)
- bene-** *good, well* (benign, beneficial)
- bi-** *two* (bipedal, biceps, bifid)
- bili-** *bile* (biliary, bilirubin)
- bio-** *life, living* (biology, biopsy, microbial)
- blasto-** *precursor, bud, producer* (fibroblast, osteoblast, blastomere)
- brachi-** *arm* (brachium, brachialis, antebrachium)
- brady-** *slow* (bradycardia, bradypnea)
- bucco-** *cheek* (buccal, buccinator)
- bursa-** *purse* (bursa, bursitis)
- calc-** *calcium, stone* (calcaneus, hypocalcemia)
- callo-** *thick* (callus, callosum)
- calori-** *heat* (calorie, calorimetry, calorogenic)
- calv-, calvari-** *bald, skull* (calvaria)
- calyx** *cup, vessel, chalice* (glycocalyx, renal calyx)
- capito-** *head* (capitis, capitata, capitulum)
- capni-** *smoke, carbon dioxide* (hypercapnia)
- carcino-** *cancer* (carcinogen, carcinoma)
- cardi-** *heart* (cardiac, cardiology, pericardium)
- carot- 1.** *carrot* (carotene). **2.** *stupor* (carotid)
- carpo-** *wrist* (carpus, metacarpal)
- case-** *cheese* (caseosa, casein)
- cata-** *down, break down* (catabolism)
- cauda-** *tail* (cauda equina, caudate nucleus)
- cel** *little* (pedicel)
- celi-** *belly, abdomen* (celiac)
- centri-** *center, middle* (centromere, centriole)
- cephalo-** *head* (cephalic, encephalitis)
- cervi-** *neck, narrow part* (cervix, cervical)
- chiasm-** *cross, X* (optic chiasm)
- choano-** *funnel* (choana)
- chole-** *bile* (cholecystokinin, cholelithotripsy)
- chondro- 1.** *grain* (mitochondria). **2.** *cartilage, gristle* (chondrocyte, perichondrium)
- chromo-** *color* (dichromat, chromatin, cytochrome)
- chrono-** *time* (chronotropic, chronic)
- cili-** *eyelash* (cilium, superciliary)
- circ-** *about, around* (circadian, circumduction)
- cis-** *cut* (incision, incisor)
- cisterna** *reservoir* (cisterna chyli)
- clast-** *break down, destroy* (osteoclast)
- clavi-** *hammer, club, key* (clavicle, supraclavicular)
- cle** *little* (tubercle, corpuscle)
- cleido-** *clavicle* (sternocleidomastoid)
- cnemo-** *lower leg* (gastrocnemius)
- co-** *together* (coenzyme, cotransport)
- collo- 1.** *hill* (colliculus). **2.** *glue* (colloid, collagen)
- contra-** *opposite* (contralateral)
- corni-** *horn* (cornified, corniculate, cornu)
- corono-** *crown* (coronary, corona, coronal)
- corpo-** *body* (corpus luteum, corpora quadrigemina)
- corti-** *bark, rind* (cortex, cortical)
- costa-** *rib* (intercostal, subcostal)
- coxa-** *hip* (os coxae, coxal)
- crani-** *helmet* (cranium, epicranium)
- cribri-** *sieve, strainer* (cribriform, area cribrosa)
- crino-** *separate, secrete* (holocrine, endocrinology)
- crista-** *crest* (crista galli, mitochondrial crista)
- crito-** *to separate* (hematocrit)
- cruci-** *cross* (cruciate ligament)
- cule, -culus** *small* (canaliculus, trabecula, auricular)
- cune-** *wedge* (cuneiform, cuneatus)
- cutane-, cuti-** *skin* (subcutaneous, cuticle)
- cysto-** *bladder* (cystitis, cholecystectomy)
- cyto-** *cell* (cytology, cytokinesis, monocyte)
- de-** *down* (defecate, deglutition, dehydration)
- demi-** *half* (demifacet, demilune)
- den-, denti-** *tooth* (dentition, dens)

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Commonly Used Prefixes and Suffixes

| | |
|--|--|
| a- : without; avascular | colo- : colon; colonoscopy |
| ab- : from; abduct | contra- : against; contralateral |
| -ac : pertaining to; cardiac | corp- : body, corpuscle |
| ad- : to, toward; adduct | cortic- : rind, bark; corticospinal |
| adip- : fat; adipocytes | cost- : rib; costal |
| aer- : air; aerobic respiration | cranio- : skull; craniosacral |
| af- : toward; afferent | -crine : to secrete; endocrine |
| -al : pertaining to; brachial | cut- : skin; cutaneous |
| alb- : white; albino | cyan- : blue; cyanosis |
| allo- : other; allograft | cyst-, -cyst : sac; blastocyst |
| ana- : back; anaphase | cyt-, cyto- : hollow cell; cytology |
| andro- : male, androgen | de- : away; deactivation |
| angio- : vessel; angiogram | dent- : teeth; dentition |
| ante- : before; antebrachial | derm- : skin; dermis |
| anti-, ant- : against; antibiotic | di- : twice; disaccharide |
| apo- : from; apocrine | dia- : through; diameter |
| arachn- : spider; arachnoid | digit- : finger or toe; digital |
| arter- : artery; arterial | dipl- : double; diploid |
| arthro- : joint; arthroscopy | dis- : apart, away from; disability |
| -asis, -asia : state, condition; homeostasis | ecto- : outside; ectoderm |
| astro- : star; astrocyte | ef- : away from; efferent |
| aur- : ear; auricle | encephalo- : brain; encephalitis |
| auto- : self; autonomic | end-, endo- : inside; endometrium |
| baro- : pressure; baroreceptor | entero- : intestine; enteric |
| bi- : two; bifurcate | epi- : on; epimysium |
| bio- : life; biology | erythro- : red; erythrocyte |
| blast-, -blast : precursor; blastocyst | ex- : out, away from; exocytosis |
| brachi- : arm; brachiocephalic | extra- : outside, beyond; extracellular |
| bronch- : windpipe, airway; bronchial | -form : shape; fusiform |
| carcin- : cancer; carcinoma | gastr- : stomach; gastrointestinal |
| cardi-, cardio-, -cardia : heart; cardiac | -gen, -genic : to produce; mutagen |
| cephal- : head; brachiocephalic | gest- : to bear; gestation |
| cerebr- : brain, cerebral hemispheres | glosso-, -glossus : tongue; hypoglossal |
| cervic- : neck; cervical vertebrae | glyco- : sugar; glycogen |
| chole- : bile; cholecystitis | -gram : record; myogram |
| chondro- : cartilage; chondrocyte | gran- : grain; granulocyte |
| chrom-, chromo- : color; chromatin | -graph, -graphia : to write; electroencephalograph |
| circum- : around; circumduction | gyne-, gyno- : woman; gynecologist |
| -clast : broken; osteoclast | hem-, hemato- : blood, hemopoiesis |